

Notes from the Principal – March 2010



I am coming to the conclusion that there is no such thing as an average or predictable term in a primary school. The Autumn term just gone was eventful, poignant and full of surprises (productive)

Half way through the Spring term and nothing has gone according to form. Our wintry start effected the building , lectures and events . But undaunted all got sorted; building was mended, we had our musical and the lecture was a sell out .

So what else for this Spring term. Well brace yourselves, again it is packed with events and developments. The easiest way to cover the ground is to do it chronologically.

At the suggestion of one parent and prompted by the children we conducted an appeal to raise money for Haiti. Actually to say we conducted an appeal is not really true. We in fact did nothing other than let children know that a box would be available for those who wanted to give a donation.

The response has been staggering. In excess of 1,200 euro has been raised, made up of 1p's to 50 euro notes and all done quietly by the children themselves. The only hard job was counting the coins. I find this response gob-smacking and humbling and shows what can be done

The two lectures held in February were a great success and very well attende. Rutger Kortenhorst talk on Sanskrit was heard by about 40 parents and some teachers. It has spawned a small group of parents who have decided that they two want to 'learn the songs' and get the feel of an amazing language with the minimum of effort. An edited version of his talk will be included in the Spring Newsletter which comes on line in the next month.

Mr Mulhall's lecture on Self Esteem certainly captured the attention and interest of the JSS community. To a very, very, very full house some fundamental issues were dealt with. The questions and discussion which followed were practical and real. Because of the interest displayed in this topic a few actions will follow;

- 1) All the teaching staff will hear the same talk at our next staff meeting on the 10th March
- 2) The talk has been emailed to the many people who requested it
- 3) A booklet will be produced which contains the talk and the content of the question and answer session which followed

On March 18th there will be a soccer tournament involving 3rd 4th 5th and 6th boys. This is being organised by Niall Callaghan, Assisstant Principal. This meets a number of needs, intelligent handling of the competitive spirit that begins to emerge at this age and the opportunity to let the Junior school experience the good life that awaits them in the Senior school. Lest any members of the female family feel left out, a similar venture will be run for them at a later date.

Food

We have some exciting news to report on this front. As many of you may know there is now a cookery school attached to Donnybrook Fair shop. Neighbourly relations have always pertained

between ourselves and this shop and the prospect of establishing a connection between the JSS catering dept and cookery school seemed like a good idea. Following recent conversations with Mr Joe Doyle the brains behind DF, a member of their school is going to review our menus, come in and see our catering people in action and offer some suggestions and perhaps some new vegetarian options for us to try out. This will be followed by a cookery evening for parents which will be held in the beautifully fitted out kitchens which are at the back of DF. These events will happen over the next two months. The exact dates will be posted on the website and will also be emailed to parent reps.

Pet days

A suggestion from 3rd class boys, to which the teacher gave a cautious yes has given the principal the task/headache of clearing all the H&S hurdles and inviting in some 4 legged / winged/ creatures into JSS. Quite how we do this is not too clear but it will happen and will need the help of your good selves and the Almighty!!!

Trips holidays

Our class educational holidays and trips is on the horizon and for the parents of 2nd class there will be a morning assigned after the Easter Break when I will brief all parents new to the scene of what is involved. These trips are an integral part of a JSS education and each year we get better and better at making it a great experience for children, teachers and parents. Having all the facts well in advance of the happenings

Parent-rep Meetings;

Parent rep meetings have always been useful. In recent times they have become invaluable. While it may appear to be a relatively straightforward role, the role of the class rep has become a vital ingredient of healthy school development. Contributions from the reps, feedback from classes, prompt responses to emerging needs and bringing parents together are the substance of the work of this excellent group. Just to say a very sincere thank you.

Code of Behaviour

We now have the promise of around 12 parents to help consider our Code of Behaviour. The meetings will begin after Easter and the relevant dates will be communicated to parents in the coming weeks.

Mrs T